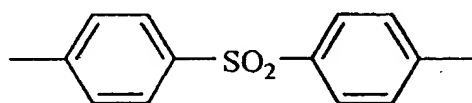


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

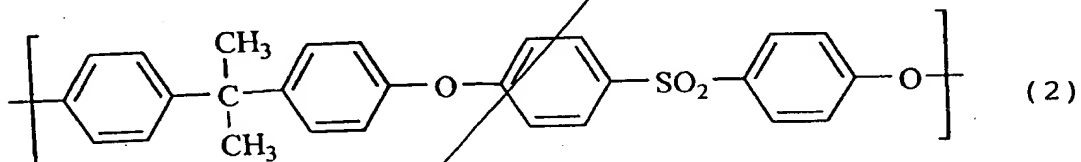
1. An endless belt for electrophotography which is obtainable continuously by melt extrusion from a circular die; the endless belt comprising a layer containing a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula

(1)

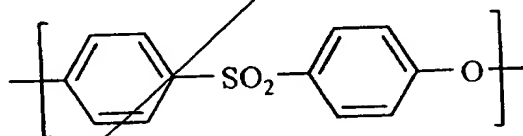


(1)

2. An endless belt according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure is a thermoplastic resin having a structural unit represented by the following Formula (2) or (3)



(2)



(3)

3. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness of from 40  $\mu\text{m}$  to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

4. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness not larger than 1/3 of the slit width

of the circular die used.

5. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness not larger than  $1/5$  of the slit width of the circular die used.

6. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has an external diameter of from 50% to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

7. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has an external diameter of from more than 100% to 400% or less of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

8. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has an external diameter of from 105% to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

9. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a resistance of from  $1 \times 10^0 \Omega$  to  $1 \times 10^{14} \Omega$ .

10. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a surface-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

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sub  
D1

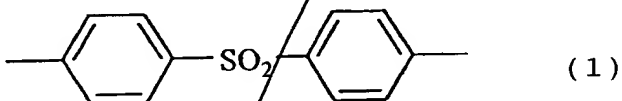
sub  
A2

11. An endless belt according to claim 1, which has a thickness-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

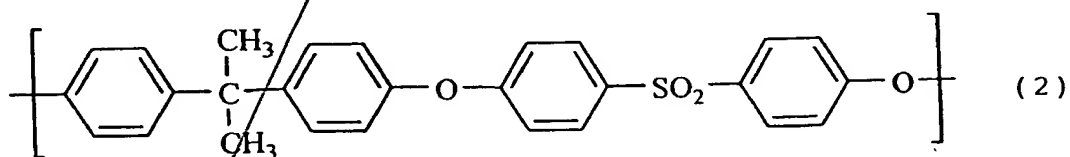
12. An endless belt according to claim 1, which is an intermediate transfer belt.

13. An endless belt according to claim 1, which is a transfer material carrying belt.

14. A process for producing an endless belt for electrophotography; the process comprising the step of melt-extruding a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula (1), from a circular die to produce the endless belt continuously



15. A process according to claim 14, wherein said thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure is a thermoplastic resin having a structural unit represented by the following Formula (2) or (3)

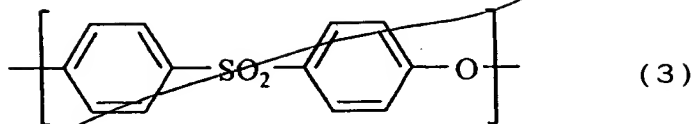


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SUB  
A2  
C2C

SUB  
D1

SUB  
B2



5 16. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a thickness of from 40  $\mu\text{m}$  to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

10 17. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a thickness not larger than 1/3 of the slit width of the circular die used.

18. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a thickness not larger than 1/5 of the slit width of the circular die used.

15 19. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has an external diameter of from 50% to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

20 20. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has an external diameter of from more than 100% to 400% or less of the external diameter of the die slit of the circular die used.

25 21. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has an external diameter of from 105% to 400% of the external diameter of the die slit of the

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circular die used.

22. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a resistance of from  $1 \times 10^0 \Omega$  to  $1 \times 10^{14} \Omega$ .

23. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a surface-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

24. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt has a thickness-direction resistance whose maximum value is within 100 times the minimum value thereof.

25. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt is an intermediate transfer belt.

26. A process according to claim 14, wherein said endless belt is a transfer material carrying belt.

27. A process according to claim 14, wherein a gas is blown to the inside of a cylindrical film of the thermoplastic resin melt-extruded from the circular die, to make the endless belt have an external diameter larger than the external diameter of the die slit of

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B3

the circular die.

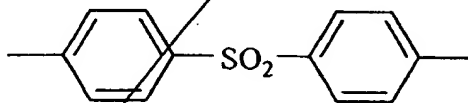
28. A process according to claim 14, wherein an extrusion material to be melt-extruded which contains the thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure has a breaking extension of 2% or more.

29. A process according to claim 14, wherein an extrusion material to be melt-extruded which contains the thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure has a tensile breaking strength of 40 MPa or above.

30. An image forming apparatus for electrophotography comprising;

an endless belt which is obtainable continuously by melt extrusion from a circular die;

said endless belt comprising a layer containing a thermoplastic resin having a diphenyl sulfone structure represented by the following Formula (1)



(1)

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16B  
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